

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Block Island School

May 17, 2010

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, May 17, 2010, in the media center of the Block Island School.

Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Bill Young who passed away suddenly on Saturday, May 8, 2010.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 12, 2010, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0 with Richard Tretheway not in attendance.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the executive session meeting held on April 12, 2010, as written carried with a vote of 4-0 with Richard Tretheway not in attendance.

Reports

Annie Hall thanked the administration for its help in getting through

one of the most difficult weeks at the Block Island School and the teachers for their support and teaching the children how to grieve.

Mr. Hicks requested that the decision on Shared Administrative Services with Westerly, under Old Business, be held off for a week to give the staff time to discuss and ask questions before any decision is made. The School Committee scheduled an interim meeting for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26 to address this item and make a final decision.

At last month's meeting the School Committee asked Mr. Hicks to work on a solution to recognize Colleen Glen, a former student who received her GED this year. Mr. Hicks' letter to Colleen's grandparents stated that school policy does not provide for the participation of any student who has not fulfilled the requirements for a diploma from the Block Island School. However, he would permit the seniors to build recognition of Colleen into remarks made at graduation by one of the speakers. She can stand and be recognized after the remarks.

Mr. Hicks reported that earlier in the year the School Committee voted to participate in Race to the Top. The second round is now in process and while the work has not substantively changed the agreement is meant to be more inclusive and specific. The most recent scope of work was submitted for School Committee information.

The standing of accounts through April 30, 2010, was submitted for School Committee review. Mr. Hicks reported that the fund balance is down from last month, but it will continue to change over the next two months. A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the fiscal report through April 30, 2010, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0 with Richard Tretheway not in attendance.

Old Business

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve Policy GK: Safe and Peaceful School Community as presented carried with a vote of 4-0 with Richard Tretheway not in attendance.

Representatives from Westerly were on-island this afternoon to discuss the possibility of Block Island School sharing administrative services with them and to answer questions from the staff. Sean McGarry stated that he was unaware that Westerly's psychologist would be the person coming over to serve as our special education director and the fact that she is not an experienced director concerned him. Others felt the same in that Block Island School has suffered because inexperienced people have filled administrative positions. It was questioned how we could sever the connection with Westerly if the collaborative approach was not working. Mr. Hicks explained that this relationship would not be any more binding than the current one and could be reviewed on an annual basis to determine its effectiveness. Others commented that inconsistency is

a big problem for Block Island. The school had some serious issues a couple of years ago that have been cleared up. The special education department is working well and some did not see a reason to make a change at this point. It was stated that flexibility needed to be a key component and that communication would have to be a high priority. Westerly has been working on their model for many years and continues to make changes when necessary to provide the best services for the children. A decision will be made at the interim meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 26.

The voters at the financial town meeting approved the school's budget as recommended by the Town Council, which was \$100,000 less than what the School Committee had approved. Mr. Hicks submitted a memorandum with suggested changes to the budget to cover the shortage. He noted that in the original budget an estimate of the state mean for teacher salaries was made, but since that time the mean had dropped, permitting an adjustment of \$5,862. A ten percent increase for health insurance was included when the actual increase was only 7.8 percent, which saved \$7,870. The benefits line item was reduced by \$18,000 because the anticipated costs for paying payroll taxes for people who were being paid as independent contractors and receiving 1099s was less than expected. The increase from three to four days per week for the social worker will be delayed until she returns from maternity leave, which saves \$7,268. Capital projects will be funded using this year's reserves instead of next year's operations at a savings of \$61,000. In addition, Mr. Hicks

reported that there are some emerging changes in our special needs population that would have both positive and negative impacts on the budget, but may not be fully certain until August.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to open the public hearing on the 2010-2011 budget carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to reduce the teacher salaries line by \$5,862; the health line by \$7,870; the benefits line by \$18,000; to delay the increase in the social worker until she returns from maternity leave at a savings of \$7,268; to move \$61,000 of capital projects to the reserves; and to reduce town support by \$100,000 carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to close the public hearing on the 2010-2011 budget carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

In response to a public bid, Hareld Glass submitted a proposal to remove and replace the skylight over the music room at a cost of \$23,950. This includes installation, disposal, ferry travel costs, lodging, prevailing wages, shop drawings, field measurements, and caulking. A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the awarding of the bid to replace the music room skylight as submitted by Hareld Glass in the amount of \$23,950 carried with a vote of 5-0.

The senior class has requested that in lieu of having dinner with the

School Committee that the funds be donated to the Block Island Conservancy and/or to an alumna who has been diagnosed with cancer. School Committee members requested a specific dollar amount, but settled on the average per pupil cost from last year's dinner. A motion (Butcher, McGarry) to reclassify the funds that would have been used for a senior class dinner and donate that amount to the Block Island Conservancy based on the average per pupil cost from last year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve Kristine Monje's request for tuition reimbursement for two courses towards her Master's degree carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Butcher) to accept Matthew Coviello's resignation as custodian carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to consent to the appointment of Lynette Fletcher as the evening custodian carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to renew the contract with Aramark as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that negotiations between the School Committee and the Teachers' Association took place over the course of this year.

Each side listened to ideas and responded to them until a tentative three-year agreement was reached. He provided the required cost

analysis of the contract for School Committee information. Teachers' wages will stay at state mean with a small increase over three years in longevity payments. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to ratify and allow the chairperson to sign the new collective bargaining agreement with the New Shoreham Teachers' Association carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events for the months of May and June was submitted for School Committee information. An interim meeting has been scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26. The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, June 21, 2010.

Correspondence

Various pieces of correspondence were forward for School Committee information.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 7:53 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for collective bargaining/personnel carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:24 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to seal the executive session minutes carried with a vote of 5-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) at 8:24 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: June 21, 2010